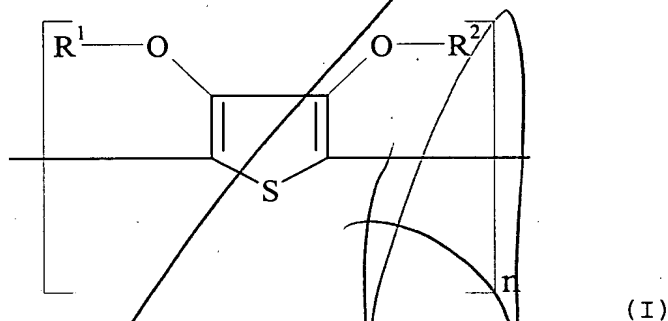


[CLAIMS]

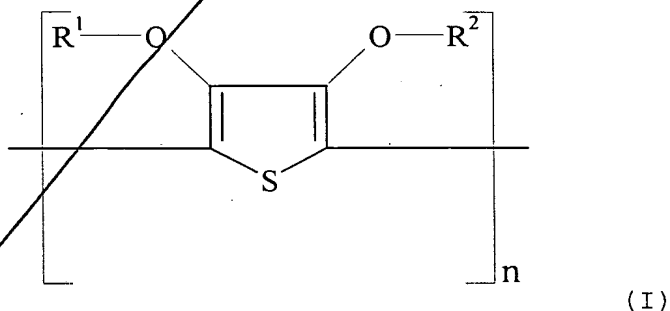
1. A method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group;

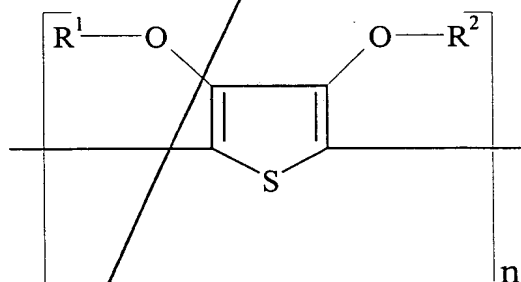
- (ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said polythiophene according to formula (I) is poly(3,4-ethylenedioxy-thiophene).
3. Method according to claim 1, wherein said layer further comprises a polyanion.
4. A liquid crystal alignment layer obtainable by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:
- i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



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wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen (or) a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group (or) together represent a C_1 - C_4 alkylene group (or) a cycloalkylene group; and
 (ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

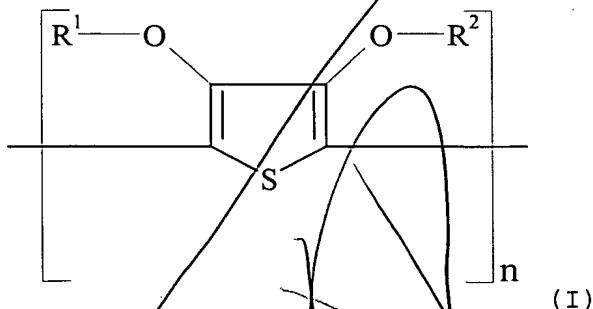
5. Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4 having a surface resistivity lower than $10^5 \Omega/\square$.
6. Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4, wherein said liquid crystal alignment layer is a patterned layer consisting of conducting and non-conducting areas.
7. Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4, wherein said liquid crystal alignment layer is not removed at non-conducting areas.
8. A liquid crystal device comprising a pair of substrates each having an electrode thereon and a liquid crystal disposed between said substrates, wherein at least one of said substrates is provided with a layer system comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer obtainable by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:
 - i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or together represent a C_1 - C_4 alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and
 (ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

9. Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein each of said substrates consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene naphthalate), polycarbonate, polydicyclopentadiene, poly(ether sulfone), glass and a glass/plastic laminate.
10. Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein each of said substrates is provided with an electroconductive layer.
11. Liquid crystal device according to claim 10, wherein said electroconductive layer on at least one of said substrates comprises an indium-tin oxide layer.
12. Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein a passivating anchor layer is provided between at least one of said substrates and said liquid crystal alignment layer.
13. Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein said substrates are provided with a barrier layer.
14. A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4 or a liquid crystal device according to claim 8.
15. Process for using a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or together represent a C_1 - C_4 alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group, for aligning liquid crystals.

16. Process according to claim 15, wherein said polythiophene according to formula (I) exhibits electroconductive properties.

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